

Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01 /104 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6272

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 10019

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, GW

SUBJECT: INTRA-COALITION ARGUMENTS

1. IN PART BECAUSE OF A LACK OF MUCH ELSE TO REPORT BUT ALSO IN PART BECAUSE THERE IS A MODICUM OF TRUTH TO IT, SEVERAL PAPERS HAVE RECENTLY REPORTED DIFFICULTIES BETWEEN THE SPD AND FDP IN WORKING OUT A DOMESTIC LEGISLATION PACKAGE. THESE DIFFICULTIES HAVE ALWAYS EXISTED AND ALWAYS WILL, NOT ONLY BETWEEN THE PARTIES BUT WITHIN EACH OF THEM AS WELL, THOUGH THE FDP IS FAR MORE HOMOGENEOUS IN ITS GENERAL ATTITUDES THAN IN THE SPD.

2. THE JUSOS AND THE MILITANT UNIONISTS IN THE SPD WISH TO HOLD OUT FOR RADICALLY SOCIALIST POSITIONS ON TAX-REFORM, PROFIT-SHARING, CO-DETERMINATION IN INDUSTRY, AND REFORM OF THE LAWS GOVERNING REAL ESTATE, AND CONCENTRATE ON OBTAINING AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY IN THE BUNDESTAG IN 1976. BUT THEY WILL NOT PREVAIL, AT LEAST NOT NOW.

3. THE NEED FOR THE SPD AND FDP TO COOPERATE IS SO GREAT THAT THEY WILL ALL BUT CERTAINLY WORK OUT WHATEVER COMPROMISES ARE NECESSARY IN THE COMING MONTHS. THAT IS WHAT, IN EFFECT, THEY HAVE A MANDATE FROM THE
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PEOPLE TO DO. IF THE ROUND OF LANDTAG ELECTIONS

BEGINNING WITH HAMBURG NEXT MAY REVEALS A VOTER MOOD THAT HAS CHANGED DRASTICALLY THAN INTRA-COALITION STRESSES COULD BECOME SERIOUS. AT THE MOMENT THEY ARE NOT, BUT REPORTS SUGGESTING THAT THEY ARE ARE QUITE USEFUL.

4. FDP BUNDESTAG WHIP MERTES, WHO IS ACTIVE IN THE SPD/FDP WORKING GROUP DRAWING UP THE ECONOMIC POLICY PACKAGE, ACKNOWLEDGED TO AN EMBASSY OFFICER THAT HE FOR ONE WAS STIMULATING SUCH REPORTS BECAUSE 1) THEY KEEP THE FDP IN THE PUBLIC EYE AND KEEP IT DISTINCT FROM THE SPD AND 2) THEY GIVE THE SPD'S CENTER A CLUB WITH WHICH TO BEAT ITS LEFT WING. MERTES ADDED THAT IN FACT NO DIFFERENCES GREAT ENOUGH TO SHAKE THE COALITION IN THE COMING MONTHS WERE ANYWHERE VISIBLE. HILLENBRAND

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